

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the March 13, 2006 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2006 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members L. Caprioglio, S. Hoag, P. Payton, O. Raadam, D. Stillinger, L. Tavtigian and N. Hagner. Also attending were Michael McGuire, Madison Borough resident and Tom Browne, Chatham Township Planning Board Member.

CTEC's Purpose (NJ40:56A, 1968): to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

Open Public Meetings Act Statement – The meeting schedule for 2005-2006 was published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers and posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings and participate in projects.

Minutes

Ms. Hoag moved to accept the minutes from January 9, 2006 and February 13, 2006 and Mr. Raadam seconded, all eligible to vote approved the minutes.

Note: Every commissioner should attend at least one ANJEC training course.

Events

Tues. March 14 2:30 PM Kirby mowing

Sat. March 18, 8:30-3, Hackettstown Natural Resource Education Center. DEP-sponsored WILD School Sites & Rain Gardens Workshop for teachers

Thurs. March 23 3:30 PM - county admin. Bldg, EC's meeting - preserving country road and old bridges.

Sat., March 25, 2006, 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, New Jersey Conservation Foundation Annual Conservation Rally, Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, New Brunswick, NJ. Visit www.njconservation.org. (Sue Hoag to attend)

Tues. March 28 - Princeton University Friend Ctr - Environmental Federation 20th Anniversary conference. 8 am - 5 pm

Sat., April 8, 2006, 8 AM to 5 PM, at the Princeton University Friend Center, NJ Environmental Federation 20th anniversary conference. K. Abbott & L. Chambers will be presenters on pesticide free lawns & parks.

Thurs., April 20, 2006, 9 AM-5 PM, at the Rutgers EcoComplex, Columbus, NJ. "Integrated Monitoring to Enhance Water Resource Management" presented by the NJ Water Monitoring Coordinating Council.

Saturday, April 22, 2006 Earth Day - Chatham Township EC's trail cleanup date.

Thurs. April 27 8:30-3:30, Atlantic City Convention Center, SWANA (Solid Waste America) NJ Spring Conference on sustainability.

Action

Madison Township resident Michael McGuire had concerns as to what measures are to be taken for protecting Woodland Park, Commission recommended to address township committee.

Formosan termites and mulch - Commission member Mr. Payton indicated that there is no threat to this area with that type of termite. No further action to be taken.

Tuesday, March 14 2:30 PM Kirby mowing to take place. This is to be done twice a year. Commission members will monitor - keep on agenda.

Clean up tasks for Saturday April 22, 2006 listed below - volunteers still needed for a few additional duties. D. Stillinger

Application Review Subcommittee - approval to send LOI to DEP for Zuretti and Schott applications. Reviewed by D. Stillinger and O. Raadam.

New applications/LOIs:

Goldberg - Bl. 144 Lot 32 - commercial bldg. next to Oak Knoll school - determine wetland boundaries. D. Stillinger to write report.

Peapack-Gladstone Bank - Bl. 144 Lot 32 - determine wetland boundaries. D. Stillinger to write report.

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge - routine maintenance in wetlands. Commission considered - no further action to be taken.

Steam Encroachment Permit - Hotel Acquisition Corp. Bl 702 Lot 18 - no further action to be taken.

Oak Knoll School - site plan for construction of drainage pipe - Commission discussed, action deemed not needed.

Brennan - Bl. 96 Lot 2 - subdivision request - planning board issue - no further action by Commission.

Walsh - Bl. 60 Lot 11.01 - subdivision request - requesting waiver of EIS. S. Hoag, O. Raadam, L. Tavtigan to review.

Final approval of projects list for 2006:

-- on-going: review and comment on LOIs and development applications

-- annual: Cleanup, electronics recycling

-- 2006: pesticide reduction, diesel emission reduction and vehicle retrofitting, tree brochure (with Tree Protection Committee), conservation easement data collection, tour of sewage treatment plant in Oct.

-- 2006-2007: continue pesticide reduction, continue diesel emission reduction and vehicle retrofitting, plan ways to implement Conservation Plan Element including solar parking lot lights for municipal building and other solar energy projects, consider action on water quality

Liaison from CTEC to the Board of Adjustment needed.

Reports

Open Space Committee report: OSC is pursuing Greenway planning and will again review the feasibility study done by the Morris County Park Commission. The Township engineer will evaluate the Kent property for suitability for purchase. It adjoins the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. S. Hoag.

Chatham Township Committee report: Composting fees are being raised to discourage depositing of out-of-town leaves by landscapers. Conservation easements on two properties, Hagner/River Rd. and Parisi/River Rd., were accepted by the Township. Stop signs on Lafayette Ave. will be discussed next time. Getting an LOI on Shunpike Field will be pursued to determine wetland buffers. N. Hagner.

Planning Board Report: In general the comments from EC members regarding tear-downs were supportive of the Planning Board's proposal with some suggestions for improvement. I think the main points can be summarized as follows:

The EC supports increasing the side yard setback but would recommend that some consideration be given to the height of the structure. Maximum setback should be required for houses that are 2 1/2 stories. The setback requirement could be reduced if the height is only 1 story at the sides of the house but the portion with reduced height must represent some minimum percentage of the total structure.

Any changes must also take into consideration the impact on existing houses. Previous attempts to change the combined side yards would have caused many of the homes in Rolling Hills to be out of conformance. (Note: The BOA has just proposed changes in the ordinance limiting building in the front setback because many houses in Rolling Hill require a variance to add a modest front porch. Perhaps something similar could be considered for the sideyards.)

There were also two suggestions for reducing total square footage and one suggestion to increase usable lot area. The validity of the comparison with Bedminster was also questioned. I believe Frank's numbers are correct but I am also surprised at the considerably smaller size of the homes allowed in Bedminster.

I would like to add my own concern is primarily with the impact that a full build out could have on storm water management in the Township. I am seeing some increase in the amount of surface water and areas that previously dried out during the summer months have not for the past couple of years. L. Caprioglio.

Diesel emissions: Township should consider buying or retrofitting vehicles (public works, school buses) so they comply with new diesel emissions standards. Residents should be asked not to let their car engines idle when waiting to pick up school children. More on this next time. O. Raadam, L. Tavigian.

Mail

(on top of filing cabinet in meeting room)

- US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, Feb. 13, 2006.
- Chatham Borough EC minutes for Jan. 18, 2006.
- Long Hill Twp. EC minutes for Dec. 19, 2005 and Jan. 18, 2006. New Chair is Len Hamilton, former Chair of the Ten Towns Committee.
- LOI determination, 1-26-06, for Block 144 Lot 50, Gunn. Wetlands on property are of Exceptional resource value requiring a 150 ft. buffer. Part of property is also within the required 300 ft. buffer of Loantaka Brook.
- Various newsletters, event announcements, and flyers.
- Summit EC recently completed an NRI. Copy is on top of filing cabinet.

CTEC meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Carolyn Scannelli, Minutes Secretary